

MOSCOW SAYS CUTS IN ENERGY SUPPLIES TO LITHUANIA BEGIN

OIL AND GAS EMBARGOES

Acts Promised in Ultimatum — Calls for Concessions in Vilnius Parliament

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MOSCOW, April 17 — The Soviet authorities told Lithuanian officials today that they would halt crude oil supplies to Lithuania's only refinery and curb the flow of natural gas. This set off calls in Lithuania's Parliament for scaling back independence measures that had provoked the Kremlin's economic move.

"The most important thing right now is to get Moscow to sit down at the negotiating table," said Egidijus Bickauskas, a pro-independence deputy who has been one of those trying to bridge the chasm between Lithuania and Moscow. He proposed that "the realization" of Lithuania's March 11 declaration of independence from the Soviet Union be suspended until at least May 1.

Response Is Delayed

The Kremlin has been pressing Lithuania to rescind its declaration and to back down from some of the legislation it has passed since March 11. The warnings culminated in an ultimatum issued by President Mikhail S. Gorbachev on Friday, warning that some types of supplies to the republic would be halted unless some independence measures were rescinded within 48 hours.

The Lithuanian Parliament did not take up the issue until today, when Soviet officials had already begun to inform some local enterprises that supplies of their raw materials were being reduced.

The Lithuanian government received a telegram late Monday night from regional gas headquarters in neighboring Byelorussia, saying that "as of April 17 of this year, there will be a sharp reduction of natural gas supplies to the Lithuanian republic," the Speaker of the Lithuanian Parliament, Aleksandras Abisalas, told deputies today in Vilnius, the capital.

Cutoff of Crude Oil

This morning, the director of the Mazeikiai oil refinery in northern Lithuania, Bronius Vainora, was told by his supplier in the Russian republic that delivery of crude oil to the plant would be halted as of Wednesday morning, said a spokesman for the Lithuanian Parliament who spoke with Mr. Vainora.

Mazeikiai, Lithuania's only refinery, produces most of the petroleum products used in the republic. It processed about 13 million tons of oil last year. Of that, 7.1 million tons were used in Lithuania and the rest was exported to other republics, including Latvia and Estonia. Lithuanian Parliament statis-

tics show that the republic consumed 7.6 million tons of oil in 1989.

Lithuanian officials said that as of tonight, they had seen no signs that these measures had actually been put into effect.

Rimantas Purtulis, chief of foreign trade for Lithuania, said that if Moscow were to completely cut off these materials, the republic has natural gas supplies to last one month and three to four months' supply of oil.

Residents of Lithuania reached by telephone said the possibility of fuel shortages has been worrying people all over the republic. Since the ultimatum was announced, long lines have formed at gas stations in the republic as Lithuanians fill up their cars and trucks as a protective measure.

Lithuania produces enough energy to supply only 20 percent of what it uses, according to the State Committee on Statistics. Most of that is electricity generated at a nuclear power plant in Ignalina and at several smaller power stations.

Other Soviet republics supply all of Lithuania's crude oil, natural gas and coal, virtually all of its metals, and the bulk of such essentials as fertilizer and machinery. The republic is a net exporter of food, paper and light industrial products.

Even before Mr. Abisalas read the telegram from the regional gas headquarters at the session of Parliament today, the passing of Moscow's deadline and the possible realization of attendant threats caused many deputies to suggest that the time had come to give in to Moscow on some major

points of dispute, several people who attended the session said.

Western journalists have been barred by the Soviet authorities from traveling to Lithuania and have to rely on telephone interviews and the official Soviet press for information.

Face-Saving Measures Sought

"We must find a way for Gorbachev to save face," said Kazimieras Antanavicius, a legislator and a member of the collective leadership of Sajudis, the Lithuanian grassroots independence movement. He urged his colleagues to freeze the independence process temporarily as a sign of good will toward the Kremlin.

Romas Gudaitis, another deputy and a member of the team that has been seeking to negotiate with the Kremlin on behalf of the new Lithuanian government, proposed that Parliament institute a moratorium on the process of adopting constitutional amendments and new laws, to encourage the Kremlin to negotiate with Lithuania about its status. He suggested that such constitutional and legal work could continue in committees and commissions, but that these issues should not be voted on or adopted until negotiations with Moscow had been arranged.

Vladimir Berezov, a deputy and a leader of the Lithuanian Communist Party, raised one of the more delicate issues that have been fraying relations between Moscow and Vilnius: service in the Soviet military.

Lithuania has canceled the spring draft in the republic and for a time offered sanctuary to young Lithuanians seeking to evade Soviet military service. Moscow responded angrily, rounding up some of the young men and insisting that the call-up go on as planned.

Mr. Berezov suggested that Lithuanians could serve in the Soviet Army as a temporary measure if separate, Lithuanian units were formed, or if the soldiers could serve on the republic's territory or in non-combat roles, such as construction and transport.

'We Have to Be Very Clever'

The Lithuanian prime minister, Kazimiera Prunskiene, said by telephone: "There is a growing sense in the Parliament that we have to be very clever in our dealings with Moscow, that we have to be the conciliatory party now. But there has been no call whatsoever to revoke the declaration of independence. I think everyone regards this as non-negotiable."

On Monday, Mrs. Prunskiene said the republic was prepared to compromise on some of the issues raised by Mr. Gorbachev in his ultimatum, including allowing Soviet citizens who so desired to keep their Soviet citizenship while continuing to live and work in Lithuania and not preventing Lithuanians who wanted to from serving in the Soviet Army.

She sent a telegram to Mr. Gorbachev outlining some of the areas of concession and urging the Soviet President to meet with a high-level Lithuanian delegation, but she has yet to receive a reply.

The Lithuanian president, Vytautas



Associated Press

Vytautas Landsbergis, the Lithuanian president, who reminded the deputies yesterday that "there is still the danger of sudden use of force" by Moscow.

Landsbergis, did not comment publicly on today's calls for compromise, although he reminded the deputies that "there is still the danger of sudden use of force" by Moscow.

The Parliament did not adopt a formal reply to the Kremlin and is scheduled to continue debate on the subject Wednesday.

Warning on Secessionist 'Fashion'

Moscow has maintained that Lithuania, like other Soviet republics, is free to secede from the Soviet Union, but must follow guidelines for secession recently passed by the Soviet Parliament. The provisions include a public referendum in the republic, a five-year negotiation period with Moscow and final approval by the full Soviet Congress.

Lithuania and its neighboring Baltic republics, Latvia and Estonia, have refused to abide by the new secession process in their drives for independence, arguing that they were illegally annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940 and that therefore the new laws do not apply to them.

In an interview with Interfax, a news service of Radio Moscow, the Soviet Foreign Minister, Eduard A. Shevardnadze, said the ultimatum to Lithuania was meant as a general warning to separatists around the Soviet Union.

He said that it "has become a fashion to talk of secession from the union," but he warned that the country was "at a very delicate stage" in its political and economic restructuring and that hasty decisions, like the ones taken by Lithuania, could have far-reaching consequences.